

**AUTOLOGOUS VASCULAR GRAFTS
CREATED BY VESSEL DISTENSION**

Abstract of the Disclosure

- 5 Devices and methods are provided for forming a vascular graft by axially distending a blood vessel to induce growth. In one embodiment, a device for distending a blood vessel of a human or animal is provided which comprises a stretching mechanism attachable directly to a blood vessel at at least two attachment positions thereon, and a means for operating the stretching mechanism to cause the blood vessel portion between said at least two attachment positions to be stretched axially. The distended portion can then be excised and used as a graft.
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